

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving Absecon - Galloway Township
Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor
Brian Conover - Music Director

Sunday, July 31st, 2022
THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / 9:00 AM

*** CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*** OPENING SONG**

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine;
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine;
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, for - ti - fy this will of mine;
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, peace di - vine, still this rest - less heart of mine;
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, right di - vine, king with - in my con - science reign;



breath of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
kin - dle ev - 'ry high de - sire; purge me with your ho - ly fire.
by your will I strong-ly live, brave-ly bear, and no - bly strive.
speak to calm this toss - ing sea, stayed in your tran - quil - i - ty.
be my guide, and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1819–1892
Music: SONG 13, Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625

*** GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

(see back of bulletin for text)

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

Refrain: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! *(Repeat)*

Oh, how right it is to give thanks to Him, our creator and our king;

We sing out our praise to the holy one; We rejoice, we rejoice in our God!

(Repeat Refrain)

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 49:1-12

¹Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

²**you of high degree and low,
rich and poor together.**

³My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

⁴**I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

⁵Why should I be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

⁶**the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,
and boast of their great riches?**

⁷One can never redeem another,
or give to God the ransom for another's life;

⁸**for the ransom of a life is so great
that there would never be enough to pay it,**

⁹in order to live forever and ever
and never¹ see the grave.

¹⁰**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation,
though they had named lands after themselves.

¹²**Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

(see back of bulletin for text)

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

*** THE WORD OF GOD: Luke 12:13-21**

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

(see back of bulletin for text)

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

BLANCH HARFFEY HIGHER EDUCATION FUND CELEBRATION

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

* APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

O God, you are wholeness. Where there is division in your church, bring reconciliation and healing. Guide the work of theologians, Sunday school teachers, seminary professors, and all who provide instruction for the building up of your church. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors, and all who provide our food. Nourish the land and all its habitants. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice. Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others, especially military personnel, police, first responders, and activists, and for the healing of the nations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement. Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress (*especially*). Renew us at your table of mercy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place (*specific ministries may be named*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

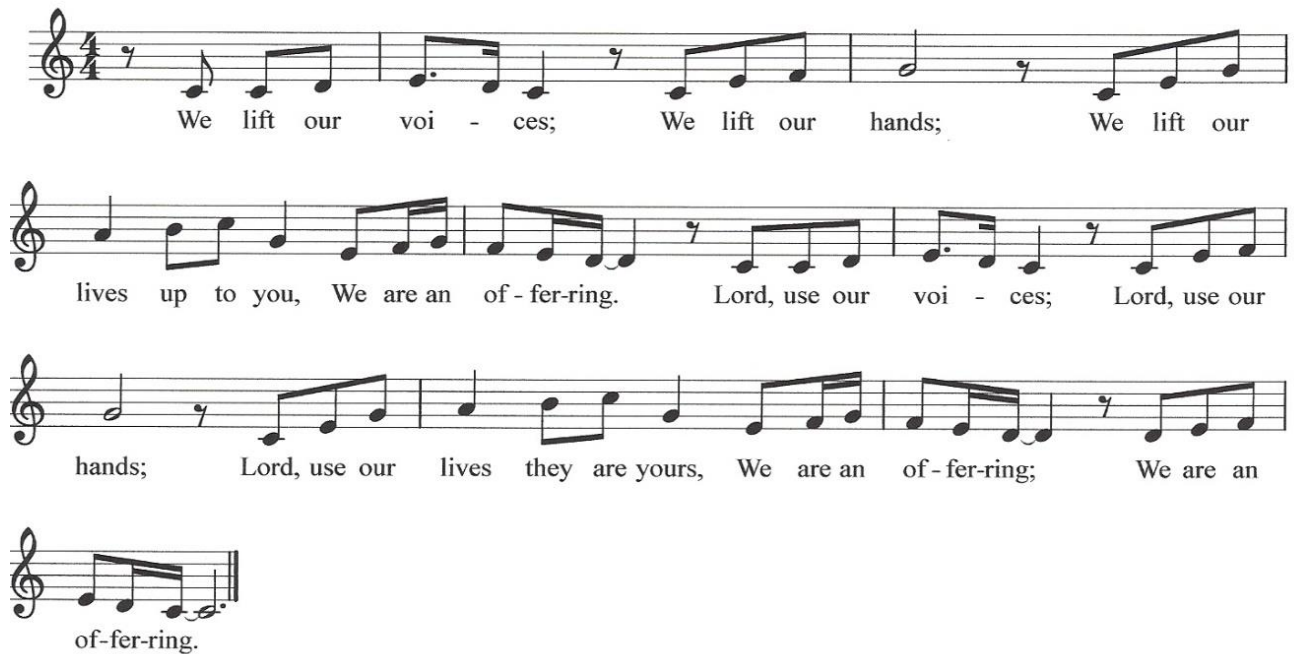
O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints (*especially*). Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

Amen.

OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC

*** OFFERING SONG - "WE ARE AN OFFERING"**



We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our
lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our
hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an
of-fer-ring.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray: God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,
in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.
We come.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

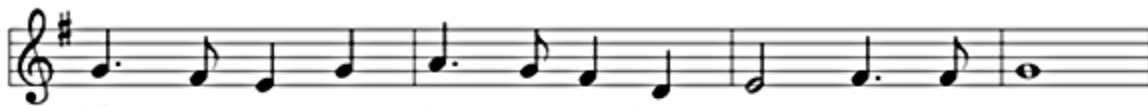
(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine. If you choose to receive at your seat, please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packets available from the ushers. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

*** POST COMMUNION HYMN**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

*** BLESSING**

And now a blessing: The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

* CLOSING SONG

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,



di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.
I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home,



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!



so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.
So, take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: SO NIMM DENN MEINE HÄNDE, Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860
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* SENDING

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

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